

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MZ

SUBJECT: OVERSEAS MINISTER'S VISIT TO MOZAMBIQUE

1. SUMMARY: HOMECOMING TOUR BY NEW OVERSEAS MINISTER WAS PERSONAL SUCCESS, BUT LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE HAS YET BECOME EVIDENT. END SUMMARY

2. ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 16 PORTUGAL'S NEW MINISTER FOR OVERSEAS, BALTAZAR REBELLO DE SOUZA, COMPLETED SIX DAY TRIUMPHAL TOUR OF MOZAMBIQUE AND DEPARTED FROM BEIRA FOR LISBON.

3. DURING VISIT MINISTER VISITED LOURENCO MARQUES (INAUGURATING VARIOUS NEW PROJECTS INCLUDING DETA AIRLINES NEW FLIGHT SIMULATOR), NAMPULA (FOR A MILITARY BRIEFING), MOCIMBOA DA PRAIS, PORTO AMELIA (WHERE HE MET FORMER FRELIMO LEADER LAZARO KAVANDAME), VILA CABRAL (INAUGURATING JET SERVICE TO NEWLY EXTENDED AIRPORT), TETE, CABORA BASSA, QUELIMANE, AND BEIRA. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY WIFE, BY
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MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNOR GENERAL AND WIFE, AND USUAL LARGE PARTY.

4. THOUGH A FEW WORKING MEETINGS WERE HELD WITH GOVERNOR GENERAL IN LOURENCO MARQUES, TRIP WAS ESSENTIALLY CEREMONIAL, MARKING BOTH MINISTER'S INSTALLATION IN OVERSEAS POSITION AND TRIUMPHAL "HOMECOMING" TO TERRITORY WHERE HE HAD SERVED AS A POPULAR GOVERNOR GENERAL IN 1968-69.

5. IN PRINCIPAL SUBSTANTIVE SPEECH, GIVEN LOURENCO MARQUES, MINISTER SAID FUTURE OF OVERSEAS WOULD BE BASED ON THREE FUNDAMENTAL POINTS: (1) ACCELERATION OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF OVERSEAS TERRITORIES IN THE EXPANSION OF PRODUCTION OF WEALTH AND ITS JUST PERSONAL, FUNCTIONAL, AND REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION; (2) ADJUSTING OF THE DIFFERENT DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES AMONG TERRITORIES AND WITH METROPOLE, WITHOUT ANY ONE PART DOMINATING THE REST; (3) ACCEPTANCE OF FOREIGN COOPERATION, IN CAPITAL AND TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE, LIMITED ONLY BY NEED TO DEFEND AGAINST COLONIALIST EXPLOITATION OR OPPRESSION. WITH REGARD TO LAST, HE NOTED THAT MOZAMBIQUE ALWAYS READY TO COLLABORATE WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES TO WHICH, WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION, IT PROVIDED SERVICES TESTIFYING TO ITS IMPARTIALITY, EQUILIBRIUM, RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND PEACEFUL AND FRUITFUL GOOD NEIGHBORLINESS. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT MOZAMBIQUE'S ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES WERE COMING TO AN END AS TERRITORY REORGANIZING FOR RAPID DEVELOPMENT, AND SAID GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT WOULD REACH 106 MILLION CONTOS (US\$ 4.24 BILLION) IN 1979, WITH 10 PERCENT ANNUAL GROWTH RATE, WHILE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION HAD ALREADY REACHED ABOUT 20 MILLION CONTOS (US\$ 800 MILLION) PER YEAR.

6. IN RITUAL VISIT TO COBORA BASSA, MINISTER STRESSED THAT ZAMBEZE DEVELOPMENT WOULD "BRING TO A LARGE STRATUM OF PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE AFRICAN PEOPLE AND NOT, AS HAD BEEN SUGGESTED, BY BRINGING HERE EXPLOITATION BY THE EUROPEAN PEOPLE", NEW STANDARDS OF LIVING, BETTER CONDITIONS OF SOCIAL WELFARE, IN A PLEASANTER AND HAPPIER LIFE. HE REVIEWED PORTUGUESE AFRICAN "MISSION", WHICH HE SAID THOSE WHO HAD TRADITIONALLY EXPLOITED AFRICA COULD NOT UNDERSTAND, OF BRINGING -- ESPECIALLY AND PRIMARILY TO THE AFRICAN MASSES -- NEW SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL LIVING CONDITIONS WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION IN A FRATERNAL COMMUNITY WHERE ANY DISCRIMINATION BASED ON ECONOMIC SITUATION OR RACE HAS BEEN ELIMINATED." THIS IDEAL, WAS UNKNOWN BY THESE WHO ONLY VERY RECENTLY BEGAN TO PREACH, WITHOUT REALLY FEELING IT, AGAINST DISCRIMINATION AMONG PEOPLES. "BUT WE HAVE NEVER PRACTISED (DISCRIMINATION), AND FOR THIS WE ARE EVEN ACCUSED OF BEING AN INFERIOR RACE, AND WE CAN TAKE ON OURSELVES THE MISSION OF MAKING IN AFRICA, AS IT SHOULD BE IN EUROPE AND AS WE

HAVE MADE IN BRAZIL, A RACE IN WHICH ALL FACTORS OF DIVISION AND HATE ARE ELIMINATED, IN ORDER THAT THE GREAT TRIUMPH OF LOVE MAY FULLY REIGN. THAT IS THE REAL PORTUGUESE MESSAGE; WE ARE MESSENGERS OF LOVE."

7. COMMENT: IF, AS GENERALLY EXPECTED, DE SOUZA'S APPOINTMENT MEANS SOME CHANGES IN OVERSEAS POLICY ARE IN STORE, HIS SPEECHES GAVE LITTLE HINT OF WHAT THEY MIGHT BE. VISIT WAS AN UNDOUBTED, IF NOT UNEXPECTED, PERSONAL SUCCESS FOR OVERSEAS MINISTER, EVEN IF PROGRAM SHOWED LITTLE ORIGINALITY. FOR ANYONE MAKING THE MOZAMBIQUE CIRCUIT, A VISIT TO SOMETHING THAT MIGHT BE CALLED A WAR ZONE (IN THIS CASE MOCIMBOA DA PRAIA), PREFERABLY WITH WIVES, A MEETING WITH THE MILITARY IN NAMPULA, AND THE RITUAL TOUR OF CABORA BASSA, ARE AS ESSENTIAL AS THE DISPLAYS OF AIRPORT ENTHUSIASM IN LOURENCO MARQUES AND BEIRA, AND THE RECEPTION (WITH NATIVE DANCERS) AT THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S PALACE. DE SOUZA WENT THROUGH IT ALL GAMELY, ALTHOUGH VISIBLY TIRED FROM HIS JUST-CONCLUDED ANGOLA TOUR, AND THE PUBLIC WAS GLAD TO SEE HIM BACK. NOW THAT HE HAS RETURNED TO LISBON, PERHAPS HE WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO GET DOWN TO WORK.

VAN OSS

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